GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:187
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2008
DISABLED CHILDREN
Ramadass Prof. M;Sharma Shri Madan Lal

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of disabled children in the country;

(b) the total number of disabled children who have received education;

(c) whether the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities,Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act,1995 is not being implemented properly to achieve its goal;and

(d) if so,the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government to ensure effective implementation of the Act to benefit the disabled children?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT.MEIRA KUMAR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 187 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2008 TABLED BY PROF.M.RAMADASS AND SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA, REGARDING DISABLED CHILDREN

(a) & (b) According to NSSO Survey, 2002,there were an estimated 45 lakh children with disabilities in the age group of 5 to 18 years of whom about 47% were enrolled in schools.

(c) & (d) Provisions of the Act,relating to education of children, are meant to be implemented by-appropriate Governments,Local Authorities and Educational Institutions. Some of the important steps being taken by the Central Government in this regard are as follows:-

(i) Assistance is being provided to States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD),which aims to provide elementary education to all children,including children with disabilities,in the age group of 6-14 years.

SSA`s component of `Inclusive Education` aims to educate disabled children in general schools, as far as possible,through various interventions like identification of children with disabilities and their enrolment in schools,appointment of special teachers and barrier-free facilities in schools, allowances for books and stationery, uniform, transport,boarding and lodging,readers, escorts, teacher training, appropriate teaching learning material, provision of Braille books and .assistive devices,alternative schooling,distance education and learning,home-based education, itinerant teachers,remedial teaching,etc.

As per information available, upto 30th September,2008, 27.23 lakh children with disabilities were identified under SSA, of whom 22.53 lakh children were enrolled in general schools. 0.88 lakh children with disabilities have been covered under Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative and Innovative Education and 1.12 lakh children with disabilities are being provided home-based education.

Up to 30th September,2008,about 17.59 lakh teachers of general elementary schools were trained for inclusive education for 3-6 days and 0.79 lakh teachers trained for 90 days.

Ramps and handrails have been provided in 6.48 lakh elementary schools up to 30th September, 2008 so as to make them barrier-free.

11.26 lakh students with disabilities of elementary schools have been provided assistive devices under SSA up to 30th September,2008.

(ii) Under another Centrally Sponsored Scheme of MHRD called `Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC)`, in 2007-08,

assistance has been given to 18 States and 3 UTs for 64307 schools where 3.57 lakh children with disabilities studied in 2007-08.The scheme has been revised in 2008, and the revised scheme known as `Inclusive Education of the Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS)` will now cover education of all children with special needs in Classes IX to XII.

(iii) Under the `Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)` of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,assistance is being provided for education and vocational training of approximately 80,000 children with disabilities in about 700 institutions of special education and vocational training being run by Non Governmental Organizations.

(iv) 12450 teachers specially equipped to teach children with disabilities are being trained in 389 institutions recognized by the Rehabilitation Council of India every year.In addition, approximately 4500 special teachers are being trained through distance mode in 113 study centres. Thus, approximately 16950 special teachers for teaching children with disabilities are being trained every year.

(v) Central Board of Secondary Education has provided special facilities to meet the needs of students with disabilities in examination.For visually impaired children,it has provided facility of scribe, extra time of 60 minutes in each paper,alternative questions in lieu of questions having visual inputs,and use of computers/typewriters for writing answers.For hearing impaired, there is an option to take only one language.